

City of Greenfield, Massachusetts
Sustainable Greenfield Implementation Committee (SGIC)

Remote Meeting via Zoom

Minutes

Thursday, April 22nd, 2021 5:00 – 6:30 PM

Attending: Hannah Rechtschaffen, George Touloumtzis, MJ Adams (left 5:34), Phil Elmer, Mike Pattavina, Jay Lord; Nancy Hazard, Tara Kurland, Marlo Warner (arrived 5:38), Carole Collins (arrived 5:45)

Absent: Jacob Frank

Also Present: Lindsay Rowe (clerk), John Pasiglia, Beth Giannini (FRCOG)

5:05 pm – Hannah called meeting to order –The meeting is being recorded.

Introduction/Updates

- **George T** – Watching the long council meeting last night, was glad to see the Master Plan referenced so many times.
- **Hannah** – Noticed during the walkabout downtown survey that there were so many things already accomplished from the master plan
- **Phil** – Did the walk through the downtown with Carole and his wife, and it was a little depressing. The Council voted to have a special meeting to vote to opt out of mosquito spraying.
- **Michael** – Cleanup is happening this weekend and is incredibly simple. Go get a bag, fill it up, bring it home and put it on your curb. Also went around town to look at the downtown. It was a good exercise and good to have eyes on the downtown.
- **MJ** –Peg Barringer the LRRP consultant was very impressed on the level of community engagement for the downtown survey. We're also attempting to set up outdoor dining. Last year was flexible, this year we're trying to pay more attention to regulations and doing the best we can to make it all work.
- **Nancy** – Celebrating the daffodils downtown thanks to Tim Grader. Also excited about the new taxi program downtown. The MVP will have a listening session on the 27th. The vulnerabilities around inequities and climate refugees creating gentrification wasn't obvious in the draft. She'll send the announcement.
- **Jay Lord** – Nancy's "my Turn" was stunningly good and talked about caterpillars and quite a statement around stopping the mosquito spraying.
- **Tara** – Appreciate that there continues to be a town-wide cleanup. We've been cleaning up trash around the High School, and are glad that it's been highlighted.

- **John Passiglia** – Chair of the Historic Commission and teacher at the Tech School. Will talk about the Green River Historic District and Charette from 15 years ago.
- **Beth Giannini** – Transportation Planner at Franklin Council Regional Governments. Phil mentioned taking the Green River plan off the shelf and interested in moving this forward.

Approval of March Minutes - A motion was made by Michael to approve the minutes and seconded by Nancy. George T had one edit: at the bottom of page 1 clarify that the change is in both the zoning map AND the zoning ordinance and it is both together that he felt balanced the protection of farmland while supporting economic development. And a few minor typos. The motion was passed. Jay abstained.

Local Rapid Recovery Program (LRRP) Community Forum - MJ requested that the consultants present their findings on the LRRP at a community event in place of the May Meeting with SGIC hosting the presentation. She suggested that it be a 6 pm meeting to accommodate the Fire Station meeting. This will be the presentation of phase 1 of the study which will provide data for creating short-term priorities for downtown. It was suggested they make sure there are opportunities for attendees to provide feedback. Nancy and Hannah agreed to help advertise and get people to attend. There was discussion about what the final outcome of the program will mean for funding possibilities for businesses, but it is too early to know. There was a suggestion to provide a series of events on this topic.

Green River Urban Park

John Passiglia attended to discuss the Green River Historic district and the Green River Charrette from 15 years ago. The district includes the area between the two dams and is the only place you can access the river in town. It was home to all the German, Irish, and Polish immigrants from the 1840s-1860s. The factory owner built single family homes and wanted to retain his employees by giving them a higher standard of living.

John gave a presentation put together by Marsha Starkey about the value of the historic district and how to promote it. The Action Plan from the 2007 Charrette set up a vision for moving forward and listed the steps to make it happen, which included a bike trail and a fish ladder.

Bike Trail

Beth Giannini had been contacted about the potential cost of developing the bike trail. She took the concept from the Charrette, and used Google Maps and MassDot to assess the possibilities. A bike path rather than a bike lane was suggested for both Mead street and River Street, which is more expensive, but has a higher level of comfort for people using it.

When she was doing the preliminary estimate, it seemed to lend itself to three pieces: 1. Existing bike trail to 2A. 2. Connect 2A to Mead Street. 3. Connect Mead street to Deerfield Street. One big

component would be the bridge crossing the river. There are also 4 roadway crossings to address. The biggest crossing is Shelburne Road/River Street/2A.

MassDOT offers bike planning tools on their website as well as a cost estimator. Once she put the linear feet, bridge work, etc. into the spreadsheet, the estimated cost was \$3.8 Million (see presentation for full breakdown). This number is probably on the realistic/high side, as she didn't want to give an unrealistically low option.

The next step is to get the funds to do a feasibility study to lay out all the steps. There was discussion on why it never moved forward, and it seemed it was mostly financial challenges.

Mosquito Spraying

City Council will have special session to address the opting out of mosquito spraying. Greenfield belongs to the Pioneer Valley mosquito Control District, which already tests and uses larvicide as needed, so there's no need to do major spraying.

Mining the Master Plan

Nancy and Laurie want to look at actionable items in the Master Plan that can be addressed by policy changes. If people like that direction, she would bring a list to the Committee and the Committee can prioritize and move it forward. Nancy would also like to look at it for other actionable items and bring non-policy items. There was unanimous support to move it forward.

CDBG UPDATE - See handout

Announcements

George has been impressed by the Greening Greenfield Housing series. They're amazing and tie with the Master Plan.

Michael called attention to the City Wide cleanup and encouraged people to get a blue bag on Saturday morning between 9 and 12 at Beacon Field.

Next meeting will be on the 27th of May at 6 pm with a virtual community presentation on the LRRP. MJ, Nancy, and Hannah will coordinate.

Michael made a motion to adjourn, Marlo, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ATTACHMENTS:

John P – Presentation

Beth G – Presentation

Urban Rivers Vision 2

Lindsay R – CDBG Quarterly Report